(Regd.) and therefore the entire seized amounts were duly adjusted against the same.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: In this case over 90,000 poor people of Punjab deposited small amounts ranging from Rs. 100 to Rs. 500 or Rs. 1,000 with the operations of the scheme. The amount came to Rs. 5 crores rupees. I would like to know from the hon. Minister if this amount would be considered as the amount cheated by the operators from the depositors and not the income of the person; and therefore, income-tax would not be charged from it. I would also like to know whether this amount would be returned to the people who deposited it.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: We have searched the premises of this Janta Janta scheme. Here it was revealed that a sum of Rs. 19 crores has been taken as deposit. Out of Rs. 19 crores, Rs. 13 crores has been accepted as genuine and Rs. 6 crores has not been accepted as genuine. When the money has been found there, it is for the person who is in possession of that money to account for it. When he is not able to account for it, is considered as his income. On that account our Department has concluded it as income and a demand was made. It also included penalty. The amount which was found there, was not sufficient to meet the demand of the Income-tax Department. Hence whatever amount that was seized there was adjusted towards the demand of the Income-tax Department. So, we are not in a position to return that amount to the depositors. Even the Act itself says when an amount is seized from a persons it has to be returned to that person if it is properly accounted.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: The amount in question is not income of the person but is the amount which he has extorted from the people. Surprisingly the reply that we have says that if necessary the person from whose premises it was seized it could be returned to him. That would, in fact, help him in getting back the money which he illegally got from the people. I want an assurance from the hon. Minister as to how the interest of the poor people who deposited the amount would be safeguarded.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: I share the concern of the hon. Member regarding the plight of the depositors, but unfortunately under the statutory provision we are not in a position to return the amount because that is the amount that is due to the Government. So far as the depositors are concerned, they have gone to civil courts to get redress.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question. Mr. Mehta.

Arrival of GEF-404 Engines for the Light Combat Aircraft from the USA

*48. SHRI KISHOR MEHTA:†
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the time schedule for the arrival of eleven GE F-404 engines for the Light Combat Aircraft from the USA;

(b) whether Government propose to order more of these engines;

(c) what is the time frame for the production of GTX engine at Bangalore and at what stage it is expected to replace the GE F-404 engine; and

(d) which airframe is being considered for use in the Light Combat Aircraft, alongwith GE F-404 engine?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFFNCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) We hope

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Kishore Mehta.

to receive the engines at periodic intervals suiting the time frames we have laid down for flying a number of prototypes. The first engine will arrive within time for testing, certification and first flight trials.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) The BTX engine is expected to successfully complete all the technical and qualification trials by mid-nineties. This engine will power the production version of LCA.

(d) The airframe for Light Combat Aircraft is being designed and developed indigenously. This airframe is so designed that it can take GEF-404 engine in the initial stage and later the indigenous GTX engine.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Closing down of branches of Nationalised Banks in London

*44. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the operations of certain Indian commercial banks have recently been closed down in London; if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) whether there is any plan of expansion of Indian public sector banks to open their branches abroad in next three years; if so, what are the locations for the same; and

(c) what is the present network of Indian Banks abroad and what are their working results at the end of 1986?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) A few branches of the Indian public sector banks in United Kingdom have been closed down in January-February, 1987 as a part of rationalisation and strengthening the operations of foreign branches of public sector banks.

No plan of expansion for opening of additional branches abroad by Indian public sector banks has been drawn up by Government and Reserve Bank of India.

As on 31-12-1986, 12 Indian public sector banks had 132 operating branches in 24 countries abroad. The public sector banks prepare their Profit and Loss Account and Balance Sheet in the forms set out in the Third Schedule of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. Only the profit/loss position of the bank as a whole during the year is required to be incorporated in the Profit & Loss Account and the Balance Sheet. Banks do not separately indicate domestic profits and foreign profits. The total published profits of these 12 banks for the year 1986 were Rs.160.89 crores.

Women IAS Officers

*45. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up a list of women I.A.S. officers who had served excellently as district collectors;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to promote such women officers to responsible posts such as Joint Secretary and above in the Government of India; and

(c) whether Government propose to scrap the system of promotion by percentage to the posts of Joint Secretary and above to benefit women IAS officers?